

**AMENDMENTS****In the Claims**

Claims 15-31 and 45-58 were previously canceled.

Please amend claims 1, 9-14, and 32 as shown herein.

Claims 1-14 and 32-44 are pending and are listed following:

1. **(currently amended)** A data communication system configured to communicatively link a host device and a remote client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the host device and the remote client device each configured for multipoint data communication over a distributed network, the data communication system comprising:

a remote data communication interface driver of the host device implemented in the remote client device, the remote data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host device via the point-to-point data communication link;

a virtual driver component configured to communicate with the remote data communication interface driver and the remote client device; and

a virtual network configured to communicatively link the remote data communication interface driver and the virtual driver component in the remote client device.

1           2.    (**previously presented**)   A data communication system as recited  
2    in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
3    Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication  
4    interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the  
5    Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

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7           3.    (**previously presented**)   A data communication system as recited  
8    in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
9    Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication  
10   interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS  
11   messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication  
12   link.

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14          4.    (**original**)   A data communication system as recited in claim 1,  
15    wherein the virtual network is a local area network.

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17          5.    (**previously presented**)   A data communication system as recited  
18    in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
19    Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate  
20   with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

1           6. (previously presented) A data communication system as recited  
2 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
3 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate  
4 Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

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6           7. (previously presented) A data communication system as recited  
7 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
8 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication  
9 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the  
10 Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the  
11 Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate with the virtual driver  
12 component via the virtual network.

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14          8. (previously presented) A data communication system as recited  
15 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote  
16 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication  
17 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS  
18 messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication  
19 link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate the Remote NDIS  
20 messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

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22          9. (currently amended) A data communication system as recited  
23 in claim 1, further comprising a connection interface configured to couple the  
24 point-to-point data communication link with the remote client device.

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2       **10. (currently amended)** A data communication system as recited  
3 in claim 1, further comprising a Universal Serial Bus data communication  
4 interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the  
5 remote client device.

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7       **11. (currently amended)** A data communication system as recited  
8 in claim 1, further comprising a 1394 bus data communication interface  
9 configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the remote  
10 client device.

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12      **12. (currently amended)** A data communication system as recited  
13 in claim 1, further comprising a wireless data communication interface configured  
14 to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the remote client  
15 device.

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17      **13. (currently amended)** A data communication system as recited  
18 in claim 1, further comprising a Bluetooth data communication interface  
19 configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the remote  
20 client device.

1       **14. (currently amended)** A data communication system as recited  
2 in claim 1, further comprising an infrared data communication interface  
3 configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the remote  
4 client device.

5       **15-31. (canceled)**

6       **32. (currently amended)** A method for implementing a  
7 point-to-point data communication link between computing devices, the method  
8 comprising:

9              implementing a remote network communication component of a host  
10 computing device in a remote client computing device, the remote network  
11 communication component designed for data communication over a distributed  
12 network;

13              implementing a connection interface to couple the remote network  
14 communication component with the host computing device; and

15              implementing a virtual network to communicatively link the remote  
16 network communication component and a virtual driver component of the remote  
17 client computing device.

1           **33. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
2 implementing the remote network communication component includes  
3 implementing a data communication interface driver to communicatively link with  
4 a data communication interface of the host computing device via the point-to-point  
5 data communication link.

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7           **34. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
8 implementing the remote network communication component includes  
9 implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to  
10 communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing  
11 device via the point-to-point data communication link.

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13          **35. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
14 implementing the remote network communication component includes  
15 implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to  
16 communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host  
17 computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

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19          **36. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
20 implementing the connection interface includes providing a point-to-point data  
21 communication protocol interface.

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1           **37. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
2 implementing the connection interface includes providing a Universal Serial Bus  
3 data communication interface.

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5           **38. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
6 implementing the connection interface includes providing a 1394 bus data  
7 communication interface.

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9           **39. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
10 implementing the connection interface includes providing a wireless data  
11 communication interface.

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13          **40. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
14 implementing the connection interface includes providing a Bluetooth data  
15 communication interface.

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17          **41. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
18 implementing the connection interface includes providing an infrared data  
19 communication interface.

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21          **42. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
22 implementing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network.

1           **43. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
2 implementing the remote network communication component includes  
3 implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver,  
4 and wherein implementing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local  
5 area network to communicate Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS  
6 driver and the virtual driver component.

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8           **44. (previously presented)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein  
9 implementing the remote network communication component includes  
10 implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to  
11 communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host  
12 computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and wherein  
13 implementing the virtual network includes implementing a virtual local area  
14 network to communicate the Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS  
15 driver and the virtual driver component.

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17           **45-58. (canceled)**  
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